

# ARTICLE ALERT



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

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## eJournal: Climate Change Perspectives



Even as a new study, published by the journal *Science*, indicates that human activity - generated emissions have reversed an Arctic cooling trend, leading to global warming unmatched for 2,000 years, world leaders are

negotiating an action framework to succeed the Kyoto Protocol. This international agreement, aimed at stabilizing the greenhouse gas emissions that accelerate global warming, will expire in 2012.

"We have reached a pivotal moment in the climate challenge, and what we decide to do now will have a profound and lasting impact on our nation and our planet," writes U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern in his introductory article.

In this *eJournalUSA*, experts from key nations around the world ponder the conditions that climate change and global warming present in their regions. They discuss what is being done within their countries to address

climate change mitigation and adaptation and how they envision mutually beneficial international partnerships. These issues will be considered in-depth at the December 2009 meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 15th Conference of Parties (COP15). The goal is a viable agreement that satisfies the nearly 200 countries concerned.

All of the countries profiled in this publication — Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Russia, and the United States — already feel the impact of global warming. Young people will inherit a world that climate change increasingly compromises. Some of them have organized to demand more aggressive action.

This *eJournalUSA* is available online at: <http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0909.pdf#popup>

### About the IRC

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized Reference and Research Library. Its goal is to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public about topics such as U.S. foreign policy, legislation, social issues, economics and trade. High speed Internet computers, printer and photo copier are provided at the IRC for library users.

Books, articles, and websites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

## Pittsburgh's Glass House Leads Green Revolution



Can a glass building be energy-efficient? Officials at the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh were perhaps the first to ask.

Their answer: yes. Following a three-year, \$37 million expansion, the Victorian-era conservatory is one of the greenest gardens in the world. "It's truly a stunning example of what museums ought to be doing about environmental sustainability," said Sarah Brophy, co-author of *The Green Museum: a Primer on Environmental Practice*.

Photo gallery of the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is accessible online at: <http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#/4110/glasshouse/>

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## ARTICLE ALERT

### The Pittsburgh Summit 2009

#### About the Summit

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was host to the G-20 Summit held from September 24-25, 2009. President Obama chaired the meeting of leaders from countries around the world that represent 85 percent of the world's economy. At the Pittsburgh G-20 Summit, leaders reviewed the progress made since the Washington and London Summits and together they discussed further actions to assure a sound and sustainable recovery from the global financial and economic crisis.

#### About the G-20

The Group of Twenty (G-20) was formally established in 1999 to bring together major industrialized and developing economies to discuss key issues in the global economy.

More on Pittsburgh Summit is accessible online at:  
<http://www.pittsburghsummit.gov/>



## DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

1. Podger, Pamela **THE LIMITS OF CONTROL** (American Journalism Review, June/July 2009)

For journalists today, social networking sites are increasingly blurring the line between the personal and professional. This creates a host of ethics and etiquette questions for news organizations, which are crafting guidelines for the growing number of staffers using social networks. Generally speaking, the advice to journalists is to identify themselves as journalists, tell recipients they are using social networks in a professional capacity, and remain mindful that people will regard them as representatives of their news organizations. Amy Webb, principal consultant at Webbmedia Group in Baltimore, says news organizations should be pondering the privacy and safety issues of a new crop of tools, including location-aware services. "When a New York Times reporter logs on to Facebook from his mobile phone, he's sharing a lot more information than his status updates. He's sharing the content he wrote and his location," Webb says. "There are safety and privacy issues around this." Currently available online at <http://www.ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4798>

2. Powell, Corey **THE BIG HEAT** (Discover, June 2009, pp. 38-43)

Global warming is at once the most alarming challenge and the most controversial. Despite the potential for catastrophic environmental outcomes, a large segment of the U.S. public still doubts that climate change will cause major harm, or that it is occurring at all. Discover Magazine editor-in-chief Powell moderates a discussion between four prominent climate scientists, who discuss the evidence that climate change is occurring. For them, the number of different events that are all happening simultaneously would be very hard to explain if not for global warming -- such as the loss of ice mass in both polar regions, the increasing acidification of the oceans, and the potential for widespread crop failures in many equatorial regions where crops are already being raised at temperatures close to their photosynthetic limits. They fear that it may be too late to make the needed changes if humanity waits until there is international cooperation; what is needed is leadership by the U.S. and Europe, and other nations will follow. Currently available online at <http://discovermagazine.com/2009/jun/30-state-of-the-climate-and-science>

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

3. Pollock, Alex J. **IT WASN'T A BUBBLE - IT WAS A DOUBLE BUBBLE** (The American: The Journal of the American Enterprise Institute, September 12, 2009)

Many are accustomed to thinking in terms of a "housing bubble." But this is only part of the story. In fact, the first decade of the 21st century brought us a real estate double bubble—one in housing, and one in commercial real estate. They both involved property prices increasing by an obviously unsustainable 90 percent over six or seven years, and they both involved notable expansion of real estate risk on the balance sheets of the highly regulated commercial banks. Article is currently available online at: <http://ow.ly/qpBt>

4. Kim, J.S. **THE COMING CONSEQUENCES OF BANKING FRAUD** (Seeking Alpha, September 9, 2009).

The Double Dip Recession, or the "W" shaped recovery that a minority of economists, such as Joseph Stiglitz, is now stating as a strong possible outcome of this current rally, should not be discussed in the realm of economics but rather in the more apropos realm of financial fraud. The fact that the upleg of the "W" shaped recovery that is occurring now will inevitably crumble in spectacular fashion will not be a result of any free market principle, but rather the direct consequence of a fraudulent scheme executed by an elite global financial oligarchy, otherwise known as Central Banks. Article is currently available online at: [http://seekingalpha.com/article/160619-the-coming-consequences-of-banking-fraud?source=article\\_sb\\_popular](http://seekingalpha.com/article/160619-the-coming-consequences-of-banking-fraud?source=article_sb_popular)

### INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

5. Joffe, Josef **THE DEFAULT POWER** (Foreign Affairs, vol. 88, no. 5, September-October 2009).

According to Joffe, co-editor of *Die Zeit*, predicting the demise of U.S. global dominance has been an intellectual sport for 50 years. Yet he argues that still no other country comes close to the United States' economic or military heft. Joffe doubts that China will eclipse the United States as a world power any time soon. "Alas, global standing is not measured by the low prices of nontradable goods, such as haircuts, bootlegged software, and government services," he says. Export dependence hurts China both by risky reliance on foreign customers and risky denial of domestic welfare. Even if China avoids internal upheaval, Joffe says, it faces the problem of a rapidly aging population. He doubts that Europe will eclipse the United States -- Europe lacks the will to use armed force as required by a global power. And the United States, alone among contending powers, shows the enlightened self-interest that breeds foreign influence, he says.

### SOCIETY & VALUES

7. Brinkley, Douglas **TR'S WILD SIDE** (American Heritage online, posted August 31, 2009)

As a Rough Rider in the Spanish-American War, Theodore Roosevelt's attention to nature and love of animals were much in evidence, characteristics that would later help form his strong conservationist platform as president.

In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt commemorated the 10th anniversary of his charge up San Juan Hill in the Spanish-American War by creating 45 new national forests in 11 states. He believed that "something in the American wilderness experience," including his experiences hunting in the West in the 1880s, "had given him an edge over the Spaniards" in Cuba, says Brinkley, a distinguished professor of history at Rice University. Similarly, Roosevelt's Rough Riders had spent much of their lives in the mountains and plains of the Southwest -- cowboys, military veterans, prospectors, hunters

6. AA09294 Wilson, David (Maj.) **A GLOBAL PROBLEM: CYBERSPACE THREATS DEMAND AN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH** (Armed Forces Journal, July 2009)

Cyberspace has changed the way people communicate forever, the author writes, but with that change comes a host of new problems including identity theft, computer viruses, the defacement of websites and network intrusions. He says cyberspace has become "an entity unto itself, not controlled by anyone, but affecting all in one form or another." Nations need to establish agreed-upon standards to help resolve problems plaguing cyberspace, including cybercrime. Wilson, who is chief of cyberlaw at the Army's U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command, advocates setting up an international organization comprised of cyber-faring nations to oversee the borderless domain of international cyberspace. The full text version of the article is available online at:

<http://www.armedforcesjournal.com/2009/07/4062667/>

and lawmen. "There could be no better material for soldiers," he enthused. When Roosevelt assumed the presidency in 1901, he brought his love of nature, his doctrine of "the strenuous life," and his belief that "the American fighting spirit would only continue as long as outdoorsmen didn't get lazy and rest on their laurels." As a champion of conservation, Roosevelt added over 234 million acres to the public domain between 1901 and 1909. He used his executive power to save the Grand Canyon, Crater Lake, Devils Tower, Mesa Verde and the Dry Tortugas, and he initiated many innovative protocols for range management, wildfire control, land planning, recreation, hydrology and soil science throughout the American West. Adapted from Brinkley's book *THE WILDERNESS WARRIOR: THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND THE CRUSADE FOR AMERICA*.



Automakers' move away from total dependence on conventional engines and fuels prompts a re-thinking of transportation by consumers and the industry alike.

[http://www.america.gov/cars\\_shift\\_green.html](http://www.america.gov/cars_shift_green.html)

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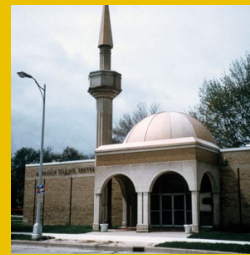
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### Special Offers:

- ( ) Climate Change Perspectives (see page 1)

*Selamat Hari Raya Idul Fitri 1430 H  
Mohon Maaf Lahir dan Batin*

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### Neighborhood Mosques

Source: <http://www.america.gov/multimedia/photogallery.html#/30145/mosques/>